

## Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Spring 4-15-2005

# Volume 40 - Issue 23 - Friday, April 15, 2005

Rose Thorn Staff

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## News Briefs

### RA selection finalized

RAs have been chosen for the 2005-2006 school year. Turn to page 3 for a complete listing of next years RAs.

### MPAA Files Lawsuits Against College Students

On Wednesday, April 13, the Motion Picture Association of America filed lawsuits against students at 12 U.S. universities for alleged illegal downloads of copyrighted materials. Most of the suits, which revolve around the use of an Internet2 application called I2Hub, will target individuals by offending I.P. address.

These lawsuits follow in the wake of similar actions by the Recording Industry Association of America, which recently filed over 400 lawsuits against students at 18 universities.

By Angela Smiley

### Laptop use poses risks to skeletal health

Doctors and physical therapists across the country are worried that as laptop use becomes more and more widespread, thousands will suffer chronic back, shoulder, wrist, and neck aches.

“When you use a laptop, you can make your head and neck comfortable, or you can make your hands and arms comfortable, but it’s impossible to do both,” says Tom Albin of Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, which has issued a standards report on ergonomics of computer workstations. The awkward positions laptops require for use are causing upper-extremity disorders to occur in younger and younger people.

By Alex Clerc

Friday  
Sunny 69 Hi / 40 Lo  
Saturday  
Sunny 71 Hi / 47 Lo

Provided by [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

## Another day at the fair

Bridget Mayer  
Staff Writer

Employers at Wednesday’s career fair had just one thing in mind — hiring for summer positions that had yet to be filled. The fair was a boon for many Rose-Hulman students who were seeking employment for this summer, as well as for graduating seniors in need of a job. The spring career fair, although smaller than the fall and winter fairs, is designed especially to bring companies and students in this situation together.

With fifty-two companies in attendance, this year’s spring fair filled the upper level of the Hulman Union. Although there were many companies in a limited amount of space, several employers sent more than one representative to talk with students; this allowed for short lines and opportunities for extended conversations with the representatives. While some companies were focused on filling last-minute summer openings in their internship programs, others were more concerned with hiring seniors



Students network with company recruiters at the Spring Career Fair Wednesday.

for full-time positions.

“Most of the companies were looking for full-time positions because it was mainly for the seniors I think,” commented sophomore chemical engineer Jennifer Kotsybar, “but there were some good companies there and it was a good opportunity to get my resume out again.”

Jan Ford, Associate Director of Career Services, noted that in the past, the spring fair has been directed mostly at

graduating seniors because of its late date; she added that recently many companies have been waiting longer to fill their job needs, and as a result the recruiters are fairly serious about hiring students at this fair. “In a lot of cases, various divisions in companies will get funding approval at the last minute, which allows them to hire a few more interns,” said Ford. She also noted that the interview schedule for Thursday had been filled even be-

fore this career fair by students who had submitted resumes to companies through the Career Services’ online eRecruiting program.

While students were excited to have another chance to speak with employers, many of the recruiters at the fair were quite pleased to be able to visit Rose-Hulman one more time.

“This career fair is much better than the one we just came from at IUPUI,” commented Acterna recruiter Jenny Pracsell. “The school treats people well, and we really like all the space we get.” Recruiters were also impressed with the students in attendance.

“We’ve seen many good applicants already today, although the turnout has been a little slower than we expected,” commented one recruiter.

Ford had some advice for students for this and future career fairs: “Prepare ahead — be ready to sell yourself, express enthusiasm about the company. If a company knows you’re really interested in working for them, a lot of times that puts a student at the top of their list.”

## Seniors to the fore: Civil Engineering

Andrew Twarek  
Staff Writer

The senior civil engineering majors have been working hard since the second day of school last August and are finally beginning to bring their design projects to completion. This marks the 16th year of the client-based senior capstone project, where teams of seniors create actual projects for outside clients.

“It’s the most realistic project I’ve ever done at school,” said senior Scott Tourville. “It is great real-world experience.” Tourville is a member of the design team working on a new office building for Baker Architects. The design will gracefully span a ravine and incorporate innovative materials to create a creative and exciting office space for the local architecture firm.

Andrea Mailloux agrees. “I appreciate the fact that it applies to what I’ll be doing after graduation.” She is working with three other seniors on a Stormwater Quality Enhancement Program for the

city of Greencastle. The project will create public awareness for stormwater quality by providing a constructed wetlands area and a rain garden.

The CE senior design program was overhauled in 1988. After listening to Lee Harrisburger of the University of Alabama discuss the benefits of client-based projects, Robert Houghtalen, a new CE faculty member at that time, decided to implement the idea.

Houghtalen said the department “had to ‘beat the bushes’ to get projects for the first few years,” calling upon alumni to supply work for the seniors. Soon, the department received projects from government and quasi-government agencies as well as individuals, churches, and homeowners associations — and from locations as far-reaching as South Dakota, New York, and North Carolina. Visits to distant sites are difficult, but “we have more local projects this year,” Houghtalen pointed out.

The class of 2005 is work-



Kevin Sutterer/ Rose Hulman

Travis McKittrick (left), Philip Griffith, David Pirnia, Andrew Twarek, and David Honan presented their design for the Covered Bridge Gateway Trail at the ASCE Indiana Section Annual Meeting in South Bend last February.

ing on seven projects in all, mostly in teams of four students. In addition to the two mentioned above, other projects include: 13th and Hulman Brownfield Redevelopment; Covered Bridge Gateway Trail; Deming Park Larrison Pavilion; Greencastle Fire Department Training Tower; and Hawthorne Park

Dam Safety Study.

The projects were assigned during the first week of classes last autumn. From a list of a dozen potential projects, students picked the most appealing and were grouped according to project preference.

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### News

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Priority Queue. You suck.

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Classifieds

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Habitat for Humanity Service Project

Make a difference in the lives of others. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SERVICE PROJECT work day Saturday, April 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gather at United Campus Ministries, 321 N. 7th St., Terre Haute at 7:45 to travel to work site. Lunch provided. Co-sponsored with St. Mary-of-the-Woods College Campus Ministry. Call 232-0185, or E-mail J.A.Diel@rose-hulman.edu to register by Wed., April 14.

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Worship

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Like sports?

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by providing an accurate and  
dependable source for news and information.”

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The Rose Thorn welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.  
THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the Rose Thorn Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).  
The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.  
All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).  
The views expressed in the Rose Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Rose Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.



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2005-2006  
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Bridget Mayer

**Apartment Style Hall - East**  
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Alicia Gehlhausen  
Kevin LaVerdiere

**Apartment Style Hall - West**  
Alicia Offutt  
Jeff Brown  
Riley Buttry

Write for the Thorn.

Civils, continued from page 1

During the fall quarter, the groups produced a project proposal and made a presentation to the class, as if they were trying to win the contract from the client. Before Winter Break, they submitted progress reports with further research and preliminary design. Just after Christmas, the teams presented their projects to members of the Civil Engineering Board of Advisors.

“[The members of the board] were very helpful. They pointed out what practicing consultants would expect,” Mailloux remarked. The design portion of the project was wrapped up with the Project Report submittal before Spring Break.

Before the course is complete, teams must make presentations in a professional atmosphere and for the client. Professional

presentations are made at meetings of the Indianapolis Metro Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) or at the American Society of Engineering Educators (ASEE) conference, for example.

For their professional presentation, the Covered Bridge Gateway Trail team was selected to represent Rose-Hulman at the ASCE Indiana Section meeting last February. The team designed a rails-to-trails project from North Terre Haute to Rockville, Indiana, creating a new bicycle and pedestrian trail along 18 miles of abandoned railroad right-of-way. They presented their project along with teams from Evansville, Notre Dame, Purdue, and Valparaiso.

Engineering design is not the only experience seniors gain

from the project. “Meeting with clients and the [faculty] coach, adapting what you learned in class to real problems, and meeting deadlines” were all part of the learning process, said David Pirnia of the Gateway Trail group.

The key to the client-based project is involving the students with an outside client. “It’s very gratifying to work with real clients, weaning the students from the faculty environment,” said Houghtalen. The only difficulty is the challenges that occur “when the client changes his mind or the deliverable.”

Inter-group skills are also practiced, with teams working together closely for the entire year. “The team dynamic was an interesting aspect of the project. It was hard to share the work equally, but...it was pretty cool,” said Jeff Poole,

working on the Greencastle Fire Department Training Tower, which will provide the department with a two-story building to practice fighting fires and a facility to test their pumps.

Tourville also enjoyed the team effort. “Over the course of the year, we learned the strengths and weaknesses of our group members, and could use that to our advantage.”

Senior design isn’t just for the seniors, though. “This is one of the most enjoyable courses I have taught—I’ve learned as much as the students,” declared Houghtalen with a smile.

Are you writing for the Thorn yet?

2005 Class

Agents named

**Becky Isaacs**  
*Guest Writer*

Class Agents will be recognized during Senior Send Off. Class Agents represent the graduating class assisting the Office of Annual Giving to keep graduates connected to Rose-Hulman. Class Agents send letters to classmates to give updates on the happenings at Rose-Hulman and seek support for the annual fund, which supports the overall operations of the campus.

“Class Agents play an invaluable role in keeping the alumni connected to campus,” states Karen O’Rourke, Director of Annual Giving. There are over 300 Class Agents spanning 7 decades of alumni. The newest members of the 2005 Class Agents are Natalie Morand, Jared Farmer and Nicole Burris.



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Out This Week

In Theatres

*The Amityville Horror*  
Directed by Andrew Douglas  
Starring Ryan Reynolds  
Rated R

*A Wake in Providence*  
Directed by Rosario Roveto, Jr.  
Starring Vincent Pagano  
Rated R  
Limited Release

*House of D*  
Directed by David Duchovny  
Starring Anton Yelchin  
Rated PG-13  
Limited Release

*The Year of the Yao*  
Directed by Adam Del Deo & James D. Stern  
Starring Yao Ming  
Rated PG  
Limited Release

On DVD

*Criminal*

*DiG!*

*Hotel Rowanda*

*Ocean's Twelve*

Box Office Tops

1. Sahara

2. Sin City

3. Fever Pitch

# Sin City will rock you

“Walk down the right back alley in Sin City and you can find anything”

Michael Jones  
Entertainment Editor

Not having been familiar with Frank Miller's graphic novel series *Sin City*, I went into the movie version with expectations arising only from the reputation of director Robert Rodriguez (Mariachi Trilogy) and the many actors that appear in the film. And I must admit, I was impressed by the number of big names involved in the project. Teaming up with Rodriguez in the director's seat is Frank Miller himself. Long-time friend Quentin Tarantino is also a special guest director. The list of actors is enormous: Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke, Clive Owen, Nick Stahl, Jessica Alba, Benicio Del Toro, Rosario Dawson, Elijah Wood, and numerous other appearances from well-known performers. With so many people willing to invest their time and effort into this movie, I only assumed that not only the comic, but also the screenplay must be outstanding. After seeing the exceptional direction of Rodriguez, and the entire crew's ability to peg the much-needed noir feel to the film, my expectations were easily surpassed by this truly entertaining movie.

The basic plot of the film is hard to follow at times; it follows three different narrators on three violent stories of revenge

through the allies and streets of Sin City. The first, which is well-narrated by Mickey Rourke as Marv, follows him on a mission to exact revenge on the man who killed Blondie, a hooker who had been kind to him. Clive Owen recounts the second story as Dwight. This follows him through a brief fight with Jackie Boy (Del Toro) that eventually leads to an all out war between the hookers of Old Town, the Sin City Police Department, and the mob. The last is narrated by Bruce Willis, who plays aging cop Hartigan. Willis is exceptional in the role, and the uncharacteristic part of Nick Stahl as Rourk Jr./Yellow Bastard (the child-molesting son of a senator) makes this segment the most intriguing part of the film. Interestingly enough, these narrations are done in the first person, which is an uncommon style in the film industry. But it allows the movie to feel more like a true incarnate of the graphic novel and less of a film version. Since I'm not familiar with Frank Miller's novels, I do not know if these three separate stories are related in them. In the film, even though many characters appear in all three narrations, they only seem to be related by the fact that they all take place in Sin City.

The film is improved by the direction of Rodriguez and Miller. They achieve the noir feel that

the film needs from start to finish with lavish usage of color, classic one liners, a very high body count, and a set that makes the viewer believe in



photo from yahoo.com  
Usage of color and contrast creates a unique style

*Sin City*. While most of the film is in black and white, important distinctions in color are made throughout. Blondie's hair is shining blonde, blood is often deep red or very bright white, and Yellow Bastard is fittingly an intense yellow. Although I'm sure that much of this is adapted from the novels, it nonetheless calls the viewer's attention. The violence in the film is typical of a Rodriguez film. Much like in the Mariachi trilogy, one man is capable of wasting nearly a hundred men by himself. (Marv and Dwight seem to be invincible.) The elaborate deaths are topped off by large amounts of blood, so if you're squeamish, I wouldn't suggest watching.

Even though this is a well-done movie, there are aspects that could be improved. Some of the acting turns are disappointing.

Michael Madsen's role as Bruce Willis's partner Bob feels forced, and Jessica Alba's lines leave something to be desired (although Alba was chosen more for looking the part). The violence is also an issue. I'm not usually squeamish at all during a movie, but sometimes it is quite graphic—probably a bit overboard at times. That remains the main disclaimer for the movie: If you don't like violence, you will not enjoy *Sin City*. On the other hand, if you like graphic novels or comic books, or if you just enjoy a well-done movie (which is rare in these days) then I highly suggest that you check out this film. The acting is good, the story and dialogue are interesting and funny, and the direction is exceptional. Of all the comic adaptations I've seen, *Sin City* easily rises above them all.

# Wonderfalls is witty

Jacob P. Silvia  
Entertainment Editor Emeritus

I don't watch television much. It's probably a good thing for me as there is rarely ever anything good on. Just the same, shows like "Wonderfalls" make me want to start.

Were I watching television during March and April last year, I would have seen the four aired episodes of this show. I would have enjoyed these episodes. The next week, when the show was not aired, I would have written to Fox with my opinion regarding this show. It would go something along the lines: "Dear Fox, Where is 'Wonderfalls'? This show is one of the better shows you have aired this year. Please, bring it back."

Sadly, the show was cancelled, and only after four episodes. Executive producer Tim Minear has experienced early show cancellations in the past with the sci-fi western "Firefly." Instead of fading from existence like "Firefly," Minear prepared for being cancelled by filling episode 13 (the last episode filmed) with enough closure to satiate fans, but also with enough undiluted awesomeness to make fans want to find the people responsible for canceling this show and send them nasty letters.

Fortunately for everyone, the DVD of "Wonderfalls" was released early February this year. The collection consists of three discs, thirteen episodes in all. On top of that, some of the episodes have cast and crew commentary, as well as other features, including a music video for the shows extremely catchy theme song (by Andy Partridge).

The premise of this show is as follows: Jaye Tyler (Caroline Dhavernas), the youngest daughter to a family of WASPs, has graduated from Brown with a degree in Philosophy. Instead of applying this degree to some occupation, she instead gets a job at a souvenir shop on Niagara Falls, takes up residence in a quirky trailer park and generally does nothing with the utmost apathy.

During a normal day in her life, a customer returns a malformed wax lion produced by a max-molding machine and rudely demands her money back. While Jaye reluctantly retrieves the customer's change, the wax lion speaks to her, telling her not to give the change to the customer.

Jaye, confused, returns the money anyway. This results in the customer having her purse taken, chaining into an elaborate series of events resulting in Jaye inadvertently hooking up the local package-delivery guy with an attractive nurse, among other things. Through the episodes, she comes to accept the fact that the animal-shaped items talk to her and her alone. The animals don't always mean what she thinks they say, however, resulting in some entanglement she must work through, all while vying for the affection of the local bartender, who is mar-

ried, but to a wife who cheated on him on their honeymoon.

Wow. The show is hilarious. There were times when I could not breathe I was laughing so hard. The situations in which Jaye gets herself are just so extremely awkward that one has to laugh. In latter episodes, a sequence involving a cow-shaped creamer and her existential brother had me dying laughing. For serious, the show is awesome.

It is only 13 episodes as well, each spanning about 40 minutes. If you really wanted to, you could watch it over a weekend.

If you need to watch a show that's funny, witty, and deals with some higher being communicating with a normal girl, yet is not as preachy as other shows, I highly recommend "Wonderfalls" as an addition to your DVD collection.

If you watch the entire show without laughing hysterically at least once, you might want to consult a physician: you may be dead.

Have opinions about movies/music/games? No one else will listen? Write for the Thorn's entertainment section!



Photo from imdb.com  
Caroline Dhavernas as Jaye

# “Doom” pack imitates “Half Life”

Derek Lanphier  
The Daily Cougar  
(University of Houston)  
04/07/2005

(U-WIRE) HOUSTON - On Tuesday, gamers cried, "OMG!" ("Oh, my God") after seeing "Doom 3: Resurrection of Evil"’s new usable item known only as "The Grabber". The new "Doom" title is an expansion pack to the exciting "Doom 3." It adds new weapons, enemies and a whole new one-player campaign.

A bold move by Id Software in this new expansion was to include an item that is almost identical to "Half-Life 2"’s "Gravity Gun," which some might call a rip-off.

Let's do a little old-fashioned compare and contrasting: First off, both items are yellow-orange and both manipulate physical objects within the game. "Half-Life 2"’s gravity gun was not only a tool, but also a weapon as it could fling large, heavy objects at enemies as well as be used to solve puzzles. In Doom 3: Resurrection of Evil, this new-fangled "Grabber" seems to mainly be used as a puzzle-solving tool, although throwing dead zombies bodies can be quite fun. The Grabber only picks up medium-sized items.

Finally, in the original "Doom 3" game physics were not a huge deal as the player mainly just ran around and shot stuff. In "Half-Life 2" game physics played a large role through the course of the



photo from gameinformer.com  
Doom expands the series

game, then all of the sudden the Doom expansion pack plays more with the physics of the "Doom 3" engine. Coincidence? Personally, I don't think so. Looking deeper you might even say that Id Software is admitting to Valve that their next-generation game is only second best. After all, isn't imitation the greatest compliment anyone can give?

This stuff and much more flows through this gamer's head while taking a second run at the new Doom expansion.

Although "Half-Life 2" is still my favorite game, the new expansion for "Doom 3" is still major fun, because you still get to annihilate obese zombies with a shotgun, and deep down, everyone knows that was the best part of the game.

# Sahara should have stayed out of sun

**Jean Whitehead**  
*Tufts Daily (Tufts University)*  
4/13/2005

**(U-WIRE) MEDFORD, Mass.**  
For the most die-hard action-adventure fans -- the sort who have seen "National Treasure" six times and still managed to love it -- Matthew McConaughey's newest effort, "Sahara," seemed destined to be "Treasure"'s sibling in the far-fetched but fun, faux-historical treasure hunt genre. "Sahara" doesn't represent, though. It's horrendous. Dreadful. Unbearable. When you leave a movie after having checked your watch seven times, things are bad. An adaptation of Clive Cussler's sprawling African adventure, the film attempts to take the audience on a wild ride across the famed desert. It stars Matthew McConaughey as Dirk Pitt, the archetype of cliched action star good looks. The co-star, although not credited, has to be Dirk's peccs, which manage to steal the show when he loses his shirt, a frequent phenomenon. The real story is that Dirk is on a quest to find a long-lost, steel-cased Civil War Confederate sub-

marine. Although he works for NUMA (National Underwater Marine Agency), he is luckily given permission to go on a side trip to the land-locked African nation of Mali where the mysterious sub was rumored to have inexplicably landed. He is accompanied by his longtime friend and the film's obvious comedic sidekick, Al Giordino (Steve Zahn.) Unfortunately for Dirk, he has to give some hitchhikers a ride as well. These just happen to be two doctors from the World Health Organization, Eva Rojas (Penelope Cruz) and Yves Massarde (Lambert Wilson) who are in search of the source of a strange plague. When they all finally get to Africa, the warlord of Mali, General Kazim (Lenny James), is on a mission to stop them from discovering the truth about the plague and the mysterious ship. The cast is on a race against time for some action-movie sort of reason related to both the boat and the plague. Dirk has to put aside his plans to find this "Ship of Death" in order to help his new love interest. Do they find the boat? Do they stop the evil warlord's greedy plans? And

what about that plague? Can these strange conundrums all be answered by one omnipotent solution because this is a predictable movie? Umm, maybe. One small side note here. Not once did any of the characters apply any type of sunscreen to protect their most important organ from the Saharan sun, yet they have perfect tans. It is movie magic at its finest. "Sahara" tries to be a mixture of "National Treasure," "Indiana Jones," "The Mummy," and a dash of "The Scorpion King." In the end, it is just too much of "The Mummy." It has some big names, too much unnecessary violence, and cheesy romance. They both also contain actors/actresses that just sort of rub everyone the



Mathew McConaughey celebrates the upcoming success of his movie photo from imdb.com

wrong way, specifically Penelope Cruz. Ms. Cruz is supposed to contribute to a feeling of action-adventure with raw passion and intense-looking stars while having a comedic fallback on hand. It is sad to say, but she fails miserably. Do not see this movie. Stay away from it. Do not even rent

it during the summer months when string cheese becomes not just a food, but a pastime. For every second that you watch this movie, your IQ will drop one point. Some of you cannot spare to lose any more, so take my advice. "Sahara" is just a mirage of a blockbuster.

# Set Yourself on Fire is two thirds hot

**Michael Jones**  
*Entertainment Editor*

Stars has been around for a few years, long enough to know what makes the Canadian indie scene successful. Their last album, *Heart*, was widely acclaimed by critics, but by no means broke into the mainstream enough for most of the public to get a listen. With the success of Broken Social Scene in 2004, many people are taking notice of the Canadian scene. Helping Stars along further is the fact that some of the members are part of Broken Social Scene. The exposure of the Canadian scene has allowed some fantastic bands to get exposure they probably never would have gotten. At the same time, since many of these bands actually consist of the same members, sometimes the music tends to lose some originality. I suppose I'll just say it: Stars is basically another indie band from Canada that isn't all that different. So why should you bother to listen to their new album *Set Yourself on Fire*? Even though it is very similar to other albums, they have still recorded an album of very catchy indie-pop tunes. And since the Canadian scene is so good at the moment, I personally see no problem with hearing as much from our northern neighbors as possible. The album opens with the unsettling statement, "when there's nothing left to burn, you have to set yourself on fire," and is followed by the best opening to an album I've heard in 2005 so far. "Your Ex-Lover Is Dead" is simply the best song of this short year. It opens with a leisurely combination of piano, strings, and brass. A cello leads the listener into the first verse, with vocals by Torquill Cambell (who sounds remarkably like Broken Social Scene's Kevin Drew.) The song continues to build with vo-

cals by Amy Milan, until it closes with all-out band hits that bring to mind the climax of Coldplay's "Politik." The title track is second on the album, and is nearly as good as the opener. "Set Yourself on Fire" is much more dancified than the other tracks on the album, and is dominated by busy drums until it mellows out for the last third. The amazing opening of the album closes with "Ageless Beauty", a more simple melody. The vocals take center stage, and with harmonies like these, I have no complaint about that. The album falters after the opening, however. "Reunion" sounds far too much like 90s indie to fit in with the album, and "The Big Fight" is a boorish duet about (big surprise) a fight between a couple. The seventh track, "One More Night" is also rather long and tiring to listen to, and the climax lacks passion. Luckily, the album does improve for the last third. "He Lied About Death" regains the energy of the opening with New Order inspired keys. The slower tracks improve as well. "Celebration Guns" is driven almost completely by strings and vocals, and the closer "Calendar Girl" has the inspired climax that "One More Night" should have had. Even though *Set Yourself on Fire* has its flaws, two thirds of the album is completely solid. And despite some of the songs not living up to the expectations of the opening, the album contains some great achievements. Most bands will never write songs as good as the first three tracks on the album (Not even close to as good as "Your Ex-Lover is Dead.") And even though the Canadian scene may not be as established as others, it has still brought us some of the best albums of the last few years. Stars is another example of the fine music that Canada has to offer.



The Rose softball team has  
clenched the Southern  
Collegiate Athletic Conference.  
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# The way of the future



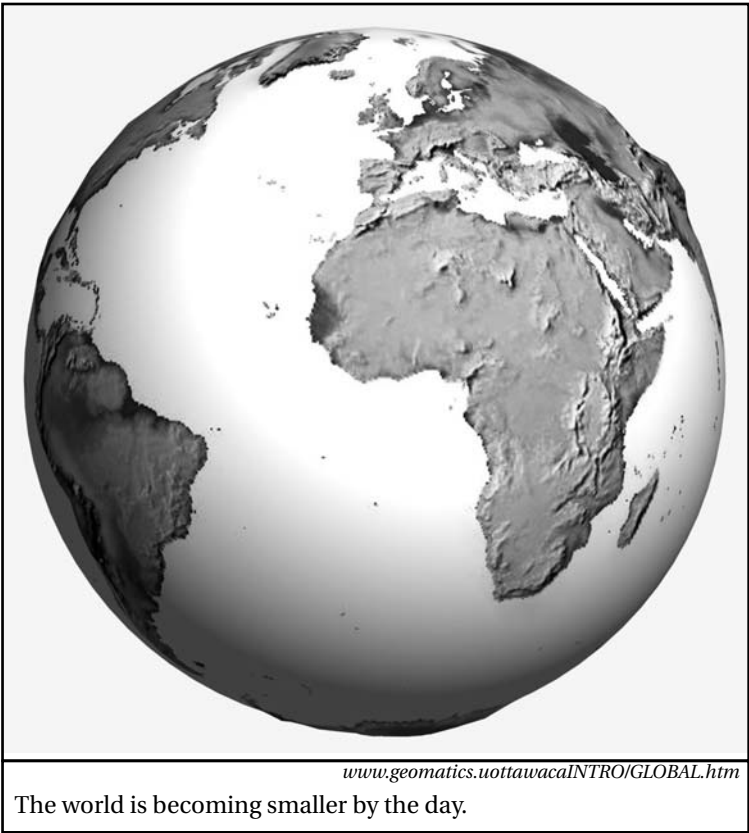
At least  
I have  
opinions

John Kropf  
Opinions Editor

Over the recent break, I read an editorial in the New York Times about the new face of Globalization. That word is thrown around a lot, usually in a negative context, but it's the way of the future. As I read it, I began to realize that the author was right. Indeed, the world is catching up to the west. And I began to realize that John Kerry, George Bush, and all the other politicians that were spewing protectionist rhetoric during the last round of presidential elections were wrong about the future. The rhetoric of American politics currently seems to be fear of change. Americans are afraid of facing a new world where they aren't guaranteed to be the best in the world, just because they're from America. And it's understandable. But it's also naive. Day by day, more populations from

remote parts of the world are entering the workforce. Countries like China and India are experiencing an industrial revolution of their own. And they are catching up. This is something that Americans have had problems admitting. In situations like this, the people who succeed are the ones who anticipate the future, and make it happen before others understand what's going on. The people who succeed are the innovators who see the things no one else does. To that end, we need to see that Globalization is the wave of the future. The way to succeed in the Global economy is to make people need what we have. Lately, our biggest asset is our wealth. Everyone needs money, and as long as we're spending we're a big part of the global universe. But what happens when we begin to spend money faster than we make it? America needs to lead the way in removing international borders. We need to welcome everyone to do business in America, to buy from America, and to be educated in America. We must do this because it is the only way to keep our institutions world class. If we work to compete for the best people in the world, then our institutions will

be the best in the world. America, it seems, has grown complacent. We are too focused on protecting ourselves. As we have focused on tightening our borders, the rest of the world has been knocking borders down. We cannot continue to pursue the isolationist strategy. It will do nothing but hurt us. Successful countries, just like successful people, are the ones who continually adapt to change. Isolation doesn't make people better; it holds them back. I don't see that spirit in modern day America. In the early 20th century, Americans were fired up about their country. So much so that millions of people from all over the world came here to make their lives. Many of them became some of the most famous success stories the world has ever known. But that spirit doesn't seem to be as evident today. Many Americans seem to believe that the end of unbridled American prosperity will never come. That is not the case, though the end will only come if we let it. Politicians will call this a "Race to the Bottom". It isn't. It's a race to the top. The future will allow more great minds across the world to collaborate, and com-



pete. And when mankind makes use of all the intellect the species has to offer, everyone benefits. Globalization has the chance to be the great equalizer, an equalizer of opportunity. And equal opportunity was a guiding principle in the foun-

dation of America. We became the richest country on earth because it was easier for people to make something of themselves here than at home. But no longer. Equality of opportunity is spreading beyond America. And that's good for the world.

## Government should spread truth about drugs

Staff Editorial  
The Auburn Plainsman  
(Auburn U.)

Alabama has a drug problem. According to police and legislators, our citizens are doing some old-fashioned Southern home cookin', but it ain't biscuits they're serving. Meth labs are popping up all across the state, investigators say, particularly in rural areas. Recipes are just a Google away, and most of the ingredients can be found at grocery stores and pharmacies. It's one of those ingredients that has state lawmakers concerned. Pseudoephedrine is a common chemical in over-the-counter cold medicines like Sudafed. It's also a key in making methamphetamine. The substance is already heavily regulated by most states,

including Alabama. Any medicine containing 60 milligrams of pseudoephedrine per tablet as its sole active ingredient must be kept behind the counter. Stores can't sell such products as loose tablets in bottles, but must package them in those annoying blister packs (because meth cooks apparently don't have time in their busy days to pop them out). You can't buy more than three packages, or nine grams, of pseudoephedrine. But that's not enough, according to state Sen. Lowell Barron, D-Fyffe, state Rep. Frank McDaniel, D-Albertville, and dozens of co-sponsors. They want to require anyone purchasing pseudoephedrine-containing medicines to sign a register and present photo identification. A few obvious points come to mind. If you're making and selling crystal meth, you probably

know where to obtain a fake ID. Virtually everyone in this town knows how to get one. This still doesn't stop anyone from sending several of their friends/customers to buy a few packages for them. If police are scanning these registers for people buying cold medicine in multiple locations, that's a ridiculous invasion of individual medical privacy. If they already have evidence that someone is making crystal meth, they should obtain a search warrant based on that. In short, this law does little to nothing to combat drug abuse and trafficking while burdening law-abiding consumers and merchants. McDaniel's version of the bill, which the House passed Tuesday, goes even further in its stupidity. It would allow retailers to sell only two packages of pseudoephedrine-containing medi-

cines, or six grams, at a time, and would require buyers to be at least 18. It would place the same restrictions on tablets containing ephedrine (a close chemical cousin). And it would ban the sale of any such medicines that aren't formulated in a way to prevent their use in manufacturing meth by Oct. 1, 2009. So unless enough states jump on the dumbwagon to induce pharmaceutical companies to reformulate their drugs, Alabamians had better eradicate the common cold by 2009. But if they're serious about curbing meth use, there's an easy solution. (Sarcasm ahead, folks.) The War on Drugs has long been based on racial and ethnic prejudices, since "Reefer Madness" told tales of pot-addled blacks and Hispanics raping white women. Drug warriors could update

those tales for the 21st century, and spread the reputation that meth is a "gay drug." Recent reports out of New York linked meth-fueled sex parties to a possible new, virulent strain of AIDS in gay communities. Add that to the already idiotic D.A.R.E. curriculum, and homophobic Southern teenage boys would volunteer to raid meth labs themselves. Ridiculous? Of course. We're not serious; this is a little exercise in reductio ad absurdum. But it's no less ridiculous than laws in question. Focus on treatment programs proven to work. Encourage economic development in poor rural counties housing meth producers. Provide young people with honest, accurate information about the real dangers of methamphetamine. But keep your damn hands off our Sudafed.

## Letter to the editor

I'd like to add my comments to the debate over the t-shirts. To give a short summary, Mr. Ellis sent a letter to the Thorn a few weeks ago stating that he thought these shirts were indecent, and the Dean of Students then asked us (the students) not to wear them. Several students have since expressed opposition to Mr. Ellis' complaint and the Dean's request, citing the college's right to free speech and the similar practices of other colleges. What I wanted to say is this: if the t-shirts were acceptable, then we have nothing to worry

about. If they were unacceptable, however, then neither our right to free speech, the motives of the administration, or the customs of other colleges can make them acceptable. My point is that we can't let ourselves be distracted from the issue at hand. The question posed by Mr. Ellis was whether or not the shirts were appropriate, and that's the question we ought to consider. Are these shirts the message we want to send? Tim Mayhew  
Mechanical Engineering  
Class of 2008

## 'C' is for carb-consciousness

Mick Swasko  
The Daily Vidette  
(Illinois State U.)

The greatest romances, the most classic of duos and ominous of hero/villain clashes of all time have panned out on the television screen. Who can think of a love story that predates Maria and Luis? Is there anyone who can name a television friendship that comes before that of Bert and Ernie? Is it possible to think of a childhood predecessor to Oscar the Grouch's ornery contempt for most of the world around him? However, while these chemistry-abundant relationships flourished before our impressionable

eyes in the early to mid 1980s for most of us, there was one duo that overshadowed the rest. A pair that, to our young minds, was inseparable as a Happy Meal and a toy. Cookie Monster most certainly always needed his cookies. It was a fact of life. The big blue monster, with wild eyes and friend to all the other puppets on the block, needed a chocolate-chip cookie. And, as we learned as quickly as Sesame Streets residents, when he did not have one, he jumped around and demanded a fix. It was funny, and it made us laugh. But as classic romances and passion seems to sometimes do,

the pair seems to have now parted ways. In an attempt to get the message of healthy eating out on children's television, the large furry monster that once sang "C is for Cookie" has been retrained to belt in his signature gruff voice "A Cookie is a Sometimes Food." In order to curb what Sesame Street producers recognize as an obesity epidemic in the United States, Cookie Monster has now become, in essence, Veggie Monster. What a great idea. I mean, I have always thought each monsters quirk, which set him or her apart from the rest of the puppets, should be corrected to teach children a lesson.

Rose Sports Rundown

Last week's sports scores

<b>Baseball</b> <b>(17-11, 10-4 SCAC)</b>	
<u>April 8</u>	
Rose-Hulman vs. DePauw	4 5
<u>April 9</u>	
<b>Rose-Hulman</b> vs. DePauw	4 1
<u>April 10</u>	
<b>Rose-Hulman</b> vs. Depauw	21 8
<b>Softball</b> <b>(12-10, 8-0 SCAC)</b>	
<u>April 9</u>	
Rose-Hulman vs. Centre College	
Game 1: 3-0	
Game 2: 4-0	
<u>April 10</u>	
Rose-Hulman vs. Centre College	
Game 1: 8-4	
Game 2: 6-5	
<b>Women's Tennis (9-6)</b>	
<u>April 13</u>	
Rose-Hulman vs. Bellarmine	2 7
<b>Golf</b>	
<u>April 10-11</u>	
Rose-Hulman at Webster U. Invitational	
<b>7th of 10 teams</b>	
<b>Teams in bold denote winners</b>	

Softball team 8-0 in conference, earns historic division championship

Andrew Twarek  
Staff Writer

The Engineer softball team has earned a perfect record in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference with four-game sweeps over Centre and Se-

wanee, and has already clinched the number one seed in the Eastern Division at the upcoming conference tournament.

Last year, the squad topped the division with a 21-18 record (8-4 SCAC), and this year marks the first back-to-back division championship of any women's sport at Rose-Hulman.

"I knew going into the season we had a chance to be successful in the conference," said Engineer head coach Brian Shearer. "This is the type of season a coach wishes to have every year."

The 2005 Engineers swept conference foes Sewanee and Centre to maintain a perfect conference record. Rose-Hulman squeezed by Sewanee with one-run margins in three of the four games. Their 8-0 SCAC record secures them a first-round bye in the conference tournament as the #1 East seed.

After graduating four key members of the 2004 team, the Engineers "are a very young team, especially when you look at our starting line-up," Shearer pointed out. Four members of the senior class anchor the batting order, while two sophomores and four freshmen round

out the starting ten. "There are currently two sophomores and four freshman playing key roles on this year's squad. The freshman class has really stepped in nicely to fill key positions left vacant due to graduation."

Shearer is most impressed

ERA, she has allowed only 120 hits in 134 innings with 73 strikeouts. Her 20 complete games and five shutouts lead the SCAC.

Not just a threat from the pitcher's circle, Clark also leads the team in the batter's box. She was named Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Week for her offensive efforts over Centre. She batted .786 (11-14) in the four-game series, totaling five runs scored and five batted in on a pair of doubles. Clark holds a .338 batting average and 12 RBIs to top the Engineer squad this season.

Senior Janae Chaney holds second-place honors in several batting categories, including hits (18), doubles (3), and walks (3), while leading the squad with only three strikeouts.

Batting honors aren't limited to upperclassmen. Clark and freshman Katie Yiznitsky have the team's only home runs with one each. Freshman Erin Locke follows Clark with 7 RBIs-and has been hit-by-pitch a team-high

three times.

"Our goal [for the rest of the year] is to keep working hard on the fundamentals and stay sharp. Hopefully the hard work will pay off for us the rest of the season and in the conference tournament," said coach Shearer.

Rose-Hulman faces DePauw University in a pair of double-headers this weekend before heading to the SCAC Tournament April 22.



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman  
Lauren Clark leads the SCAC with 20 complete games and five shutouts.

with his team on the field. "Currently our biggest strengths are pitching and defense. Our pitching staff, led by senior Lauren Clark, does not give up many runs. The defense is talented as well. When your pitchers are throwing well and your defense makes minimal mistakes that leads to wins."

Clark is awfully menacing to opposing batters. With an 11-9 pitching record and a slim 1.67

Upcoming athletic events

**Baseball**  
Sunday, April 17  
Rose-Hulman at Anderson  
Noon

Thursday, April 21  
Rose-Hulman at SCAC Championships  
2 p.m.

**Softball**  
Friday, April 15  
**Rose-Hulman vs. DePauw**  
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19  
Rose-Hulman at St. Mary-of-the-Woods  
3:30 p.m.

**Tennis**  
Saturday, April 17  
**Rose-Hulman vs. Thomas More Men -- 9 a.m.**  
**Women -- 11 a.m.**

**Men's Golf**  
Saturday, April 16  
Rose-Hulman at Millikin Invitational

**Women's Golf**  
Saturday, April 16  
Rose-Hulman at Illinois Wesleyan  
Noon

**Games in bold denote home games**

Rose-Hulman to join Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference in 2006-07

Rose-Hulman News

TERRE HAUTE, IND. -- The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference has voted unanimously to admit Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology as a new conference member, effective July 1, 2006.

The Heartland Conference President's Council, which consists of the chief executive officers of the eight current member institutions, reached a unanimous decision to admit Rose-Hulman during a recent meeting at Anderson University. Rose-Hulman will remain a member of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference through the 2005-06 season.

"The HCAC is very pleased to welcome Rose-Hulman as a new member to our athletic association," said Tom Bohlsen, commissioner of the HCAC. "Rose-Hulman is an ideal NCAA

Division III institution in that it has a respected and renowned academic profile, a sound Division III athletic program, and a philosophy that properly blends these two entities in a manner that enhances its student-athletes' total collegiate experience."

Rose-Hulman President John J. Midgley said the move to the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference will benefit Rose-Hulman and its student-athletes in many ways.

"Participating in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference helps our student-athletes spend more time in class, while competing with great schools closer to our campus. Our new conference affiliation will also make it easier for the families of our student athletes to attend away games, and the conference will enable us to renew long-standing athletic rivalries," Midgley stated.

The members of the eight-school HCAC are Anderson University (Ind.); Bluffton (Ohio), Defiance (Ohio), Franklin (Ind.), Hanover (Ind.) and Manchester (Ind.) colleges; the College of Mount St. Joseph (Ohio); and Transylvania University (Ky.).

Rose-Hulman previously competed against Anderson, Franklin, Hanover and Manchester in the Indiana Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Engineers have continued to schedule those four schools, along with Mount St. Joseph, in numerous sports during the last seven years.

Rose-Hulman Athletic Director Jeff Jenkins says the move to the HCAC will be a positive one.

"We are joining a conference whose members have philosophies that are similar to ours regarding the role of athletics in college life. Rose-Hulman student-athletes will have the op-

portunity to compete for conference championships and NCAA Division III Tournament appearances against many of the students they competed with in high school," said Jenkins.

"We are delighted to welcome Rose-Hulman back home to the heartland of athletic competition," added James Moseley, president of Franklin College and chair of the HCAC Presidents Council. "We look forward to the renewal of some long-standing rivalries between our institutions."

The HCAC sponsors conference championships in 17 sports, including nine for men and eight for women. The HCAC hosts conference championships in baseball, football, softball, volleyball and wrestling, along with men's and women's basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, tennis and outdoor track. The HCAC league headquarters are located in Greenwood.

Do you enjoy watching sports or reading about them in the newspaper?

The Rose Thorn is looking for a new Sports Editor for next year.

The position only requires 3-6 hours of work a week, and it looks great on your resume.

If you are interested, please email Josh Annin at

anninjt@rose-hulman.edu



Top Ten Real Reasons IMs Were Cancelled

- 10. The grass just looked too pretty to disturb
- 9. Brimberry had to catch *The OC*
- 8. The pros had to use the field to perform their hazing-heavy Ph.D. initiation ritual
- 7. Too many injuries had resulted from the new “Throwing Star” style Frisbee
- 6. The combined homework load of the campus would have carpeted the entire IM field
- 5. The softball had three too many laces to be regulation
- 4. The possibility of a deadly meteor strike was just too real
- 3. The fields were the only place to which they could smuggle the dying remains of the 2015 forums
- 2. Morrison felt compelled to sate his evil appetite for preventing fun
- 1. DePauw also has IMs, and we really don’t want to suck by association

-Aaron Meles

Clerc Secedes from Union

Alex Clerc

Look. I like you, America, but it’s not like we’re in love with each other. Sure, we had a physical attraction in the beginning, but now that that has cooled there is nothing keeping us together. It’s time for us to go our separate ways.

There’s no turning back now. Yesterday I emailed President Bush and told him that I am seceding from the Union and that Laura, Barb, and Jenn were welcome to visit my country anytime. And thus, the People’s Republic of Alex was born.

I don’t really have any land yet, but I think it’s fair to say that the volume of space that my body occupies should belong to me. Therefore, the official border of the People’s Republic of Alex only encloses the three cubic feet of bone and blood and meat that make up me, Alexander J. Clerc. That’s all I have so far. Our tiny nation boasts a population of 1 and a population density of 55,756,821 people per square mile. Since 99.9% ( $\pm 0.2\%$ ) of our population is urban, we must import all our agricultural products from the USA. The chief exports of our country are mostly chemicals – CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, NH<sub>3</sub> and other fertilizers, and the occasional CH<sub>4</sub>. Our official currency is the mustache dollar. The exchange rate with the US is 1:1 until I draw the mustache, and then those American swine won’t honor our currency. Tensions between the USA and me will probably come to a head next week when I annex my half of BSB 120.

As a developing nation, I really need to get my economy in gear. So, I’ve decided to open the borders of the People’s Republic of Alex to tourism. A personal or group tour of the scenery of our majestic land is a mere \$20 (don’t forget your passport). And please, female tourists only unless I’m feeling frisky and no flash photography, for I am self-conscious. I hope to welcome you to my country very soon!

Wacky Prof Quotes

- “Some people like to say a transistor is ‘hard-on’ but I can’t say that with a straight face.”  
--Prof. Herniter, on how transitors activate
- “Terminology is like, ‘Oh, please, poke my eyes out with sticks.’”  
--Prof. Rogge, either maligning terminology or complementing sticks
- “...and since we’re playing students, I’m going to sharpen them.”  
--Prof. Stienstra, who wants to injure students with his softball spikes
- “I had a Homer Simpson moment...and I was thinking, ‘mmmm, exploding cheese...’”  
--Prof. DeVasher, discussing volatile dairy products
- “You know to click ‘Yes’ because Microsoft is telling you to click ‘No.’”  
--Prof. Robinson, who hates Microsoft
- ““You’re ugly, you dress funny, and your mother wears combat boots.””  
--Prof. Morris, on supercritical fluids
- “That’s what it’s called when you take things from other people’s work and incorporate it into your own work, research. Not stealing, research.”  
--Prof. Ardis, protecting the reputation of academia
- “There was a lot of free time in hunting/gathering communities.”  
--Prof. Kukral, who should know
- “I thought I was on crack... in a bad way.”  
--Prof. Minster, who knows of another way
- “I have so much of it. A lot of it dubiously obtained.”  
--Prof. McInerney, who steals software from the Intarweb
- “It’s really bad when a Mechanical Engineer does the best on my exam.”  
--Prof. Herniter, who hates MEs

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

Herbig’s Pun of the Week

The civil engineering classes lay the foundation for their students’ success and help bridge the gap between theory and practice.

This Day In History

In 1912, the *RMS Titanic*, testament to the power of engineers, sinks after hitting an iceberg. Where is your precious “science” now, hmm?

In Addition

I wasn’t kidding about that personal advertisement in the Thron. Let me know. You know where to find me.

